

**From:** bernard j franklyn  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 1/25/02 4:21am  
**Subject:** microsoft settlement

Dear Ms.Renata,

I have been following the Microsoft case since it's inception. I am familiar with the history of computers & the internet. I am very familiar with the history of Microsoft.

If Microsoft's monopoly resulted in a better, bug free, cheaper product, I probably wouldn't be as upset with them as I am. If Mr. Gates would stop claiming that his products are the latest in software innovation, rather than the subsuming of other peoples' genius, I probably wouldn't be as upset with them as I am. If Mr. Gates hadn't arrogantly terminated support to Windows 95, I probably wouldn't be as upset with him as I am. Finally, if Mr. Gates had allowed me to freely & easily choose which browser to use rather than trying to force his own brand on me, I wouldn't be nearly as upset with him as I am.

The basis of our economy, our way of life, is a free market economy. Mr. Gates is seeking to subvert that. What he is doing is blatantly un-American! I was very disappointed when I learned that DoJ was going to settle. I was very proud of my state (California) & those other states who decided to continue the battle. I find it ironic that a Democratic attorney general is so vigorously defending the free market system while a "compassionate conservative" seems willing to roll over & expose the nation's belly to the beast.

I strongly urge you not to settle. Mr. Gates has shown a complete disregard for any kind of good faith agreement. Even his so called good will gestures are hollow as exemplified by his offer to provide his outmoded equipment & software to the underprivileged. How cynical is that!!!

Microsoft is a bully. The only thing a bully understands is force & dire consequences. It is time to impose these dire consequences. Without the imposition of severe penalties, Mr. Gates will continue to strangle commerce & innovation at a time when this country needs it most.

I urge you, your dept., & the judiciary, as advocates for the American people, to impose penalties as severe as the law allows.

Thank you,  
Bernard Franklyn